REMARKS

A. Introduction

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1,4, 9 and 12 were rejected.

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13-16 were objected to.

· Claims 1, 4, 9, and 12 were cancelled.

Claims 2, 5, 10 and 13 were amended.

B. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103.

Examiner rejected Claims 1 & 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Broillet (U.S. Patent No. 5,863,004) and rejected Claims 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Broillet. Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 4, 9 and 12 and amended Claims 2, 5, 10, and 13.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13-16 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections. Allowance of Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13-16 at an early date are solicited.

If the Examiner still finds impediments to allowance of Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13-16 and in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference between the undersigned and the Examiner would help remove such impediments. The undersigned respectfully requests a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,

GUNN & LEE, P.C. 700 North St. Mary's Street, Suite 1500 San Antonio, TX 78205-3596

(210) 886-9500 (210) 886-9883 (Fax)

Ву:

Michelle L. Evans Regis. No. 44,673